



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Minutes – January 22, 2015

Chair Gary McFarland called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present were: Selectmen Gary McFarland, Heather Fowler, S. Josephine Cooper, Nathan Mason (Arrived 7:08 PM); Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Planning Board Chair John Holt, Kathleen Rybarz, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan, Jim Sperry and Cynthia Donaldson. Selectman Bernie Johnson had informed the board prior to the meeting that he would be unable to attend.

Agenda Review – There were no changes to the printed agenda and addendum.

Minutes – January 8, 2015 – Heather moved to approve the minutes as printed. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0 (Mason not here yet)**

Expenditure Warrant 15 – Selectmen signed the warrant in the amount of \$86,105.49. Stu noted that most of the large expenditures were for the school, snow plowing and Maine Municipal Association dues.

Cash & Budget Report – Stu reported that the checking account will need about \$2,000 to cover the warrant items approved, but the school payroll does not hit until a week from Friday, and he expects there will be enough by then. He said if there is not, he will transfer some from the cash management account. Jo asked where things stood in the fiscal year, and there were brief discussions about expenditures in solid waste, administration and the comprehensive planning committee.

Tax Acquired Properties – Stu gave a brief description of three properties that had foreclosed automatically for unpaid tax liens. There was a brief discussion about the process for disposing of the properties. Stu said he had composed letters from the Board to send to the assessed owners and offering the chance to redeem for all back taxes, fees and interest. Heather asked what happens after the 30-day limit. Stu said there was a similar situation last year and the hope is that the previously assessed owners will retain their property. Selectmen agreed that the one occupied property will likely require the services of the town attorney if it gets to that point.

Gary moved to sign the letters to the previously assessed owners offering to sell back the town's interest for all back taxes, fees and interest. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0. (Selectman Johnson had signed the letters earlier in the day).**

Excise Tax Report – Jo said the excise tax collections seemed amazing. Stu said it was the best year on record.

Consent Agreement – Russell Boynton, Jr. – Stu explained that one more condition was added following distribution of the draft to the Selectmen last week, and that had to do with making sure universal waste was not stored on the property. Gary asked Mr. Boynton's representative, Jim Sperry, if he and Mr. Boynton had a chance to review and if they agreed with this. Mr. Sperry said yes, the only thing that Mr. Boynton had not

been doing was removing doors from refrigerators. He said the universal waste will be taken to the proper facility, and everything else was already in compliance.

Heather moved to accept the consent agreement. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0. Selectmen signed the agreement.** Mr. Sperry said Mr. Boynton would be in the next day to sign.

Budget Committee – Stu said the municipal budget recommendations have been made, and unless the Selectmen have any different recommendation from the Budget Committee, their recommendations would be reflected as the same on the warrant. He said he hopes that next year there is more time for the Selectmen to provide budget input and that he felt a little uncomfortable that this was the “Stu Budget” that went through.

Recreation Committee – Gary said the minutes of the organizational meeting for the committee were with tonight’s materials. Stu said Greg Stone was selected chair and he was very impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the committee. Nathan, whose wife was selected as the Secretary, said they seemed to have good ideas and will make the best use of the resources the town has.

Appeals Board – Stu reported the Board of Appeals will meet Monday on the draft of an ordinance and on February 2, 2015 to consider an appeal that is before the board, but that all parties could not be present last week for the preliminary determinations.

Forest Hill Cemetery Contract – Gary said a memo from Stu is included in the material distributed tonight. Stu said the cemetery association apparently met and agrees to the \$30/grave price, but some seem adamant that the counter proposal contract language offered must be adopted. He said he studied the proposal closely and cannot recommend that the Selectmen sign the contract. He said there are some serious deficiencies such as indemnifying the town against cemetery corporation actions and potential workers compensation issues. He said he would like to send a copy of the memo to the cemetery corporation. There was no objection from the Selectmen.

Dangerous Building – 91 Marlboro Beach Road – Stu reported the owner of the building called from Saskatchewan this morning and told him he’d signed the consent agreement and that the paper was at his home in Ellsworth and that he would bring it in next week. He said the owner asked about on-site disposal and what the town would require. Stu said he didn’t have a good answer other than to dig a hole, put the debris in and cover it up.

Gravel Pit Consent Agreements – Stu reported that Steve Salsbury had sent an e-mail indicating that notation in the minutes that the four pits in question were in compliance would be sufficient. He said the final pit that is not yet in compliance is waiting for a well to yield water. He said he believed the Planning Board would inform the Board of Selectmen when the final pit was in compliance.

Gravel Ordinance Draft Comments – Stu reported that he distributed a corrected compilation of all the comments received just prior to the meeting in advance of the February 11, 2015 workshop. He noted that he inadvertently omitted one set of comments during the cut and paste attempt, and those are now included and re-sent via e-mail.

Town Meeting Warrant Review – Selectmen went over the draft town meeting warrant article by article. A double check will be made of the fund balance amounts and a correction in one name will be made. There was a brief discussion over what information would be available at the town meeting about the land exploration article.

Town Report Printer – Xpress Copy said it would keep the price the same as the previous year. Gary moved to accept the offer. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Town Report Cover – A picture of the miniature church next to the Historical Society will grace the cover of this year's town report after a motion from Heather, a 2nd from Nathan and a **vote in favor of 4-0**. Gary said his mother could relate the story of the little church for inclusion in the report.

Selectmen's Report – A draft of the report from the Board of Selectmen was distributed for review and comment.

Returnable Requests – Jo moved to award the August proceeds to the Lamoine Recreation Committee, the September proceeds to the East Lamoine Cemetery Association, and the October proceeds to the Lamoine Historical Society. Heather 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Other business – Cynthia Donaldson gave an update on the Little Children's Committee, reporting that a play group is up and running. She said there is a lot of support and 8-families with 12 children are participating. She thanked the Selectmen for the forum to get going.

She said the informal group has discussed opening up the school library on Saturday mornings for programming for small children. She said they want to apply for a small grant from the Maine Community Foundation and they need a fiscal sponsor. She said the school is likely willing to do that, but in the event the school might apply for a grant, she wondered if the Board of Selectmen would act as a backup. She said the deadline is February 15, 2015 to get the application in.

Stu reported the town has acted as a fiscal sponsor for other groups in the past. Jo said she would favor allowing that. Cynthia said they would try to have information available before the next meeting.

Cynthia also asked if the group could apply for the bottle proceeds. There was a discussion as to whether this was a non-profit organization and if they had a tax ID number. Stu said perhaps they could fall under the umbrella of the fiscal sponsor in that matter. There was a brief discussion about the group formally organizing.

Next Meeting Dates – The Selectmen and Planning Board will meet at the Lamoine Consolidated School for a workshop on February 11, 2015. The next regular meetings are February 12 and 26, the open town meeting on March 11, the organizational Selectmen's meeting on March 12 and a regular meeting on March 26.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen.